

Present perfect

Think about this situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.)	finished lost done been etc.
he/she/it has (= he's etc.)	

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are **irregular** (lost/done/written etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've cut my finger.**
- The road is closed. There's been (there has been) an accident.**
- (from the news) Police have arrested two men in connection with the robbery.**

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with **now**. The action in the past has a result **now**:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've lost it.'** (= I don't have it **now**)
- He told me his name, but I've forgotten it.** (= I can't remember it **now**)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's gone out.'** (= she is out **now**)
- I can't find my bag. Have you seen it?** (= Do you know where it is **now**?)

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've just had lunch.'**
- Hello. Have you just arrived?**

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to send the letter.' 'I've already sent it.'**
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's already gone.'**

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- Has it stopped raining yet?**
- I've written the letter, but I haven't sent it yet.**

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- Jim is on holiday. He has gone to Italy.** (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home now. She has been to Italy.** (= she has now come back)